

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1018

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. William F. Ruhl on the occasion of his retirement from his duties as President of Goodpasture Christian School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William F. Ruhl is one such estimable educator who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, he will be retiring as President of Goodpasture Christian School on June 30, 2004, after a long and distinguished tenure with the school; and

WHEREAS, born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1937, he graduated from Decatur High School in 1955; this talented scholar earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech from David Lipscomb University, where he played Tennis for four years and served as President of the Student Body in 1958-59; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he served with acumen and alacrity as a Minister of four churches in Middle Tennessee from 1958 until 1979; and

WHEREAS, he began his noble service to Goodpasture Christian School in September of 1965 and has since earned the utmost respect and admiration of the school's students, families, and faculty for the outstanding quality of his service and his ongoing commitment to learning; and

WHEREAS, the school opened as East Nashville Christian School in 1966 with 149 students in grades 1-6 meeting on a fifteen-acre campus; the school added one grade level each year and, notably, was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools before the first senior class graduated; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Ruhl's stewardship, Goodpasture Christian School has grown to a peak enrollment of 1,200 students meeting on a debt-free campus of seventy acres with one hundred faculty and staff members; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious career, he has positively influenced many young lives, and he is wholly devoted to the welfare of Tennessee's youth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ruhl is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, he truly serves as an inspiration to his colleagues and students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; he represents all that is good and noble in education; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement, he will continue to serve the school as a part-time advisor to incoming President Gil Drake, applying the knowledge he has developed as a consultant in management and fundraising for Christian schools nationwide over the past nineteen years; and

WHEREAS, he has received numerous honors and accolades for his personal and professional excellence, including recognition in *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities* and Outstanding Young Men of America, Exchange Club Man of the Year, National Christian School Association 2004 Christian Educator of the Year, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Harding University; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Dr. Ruhl always strives to uphold the highest level of family and community values; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, the former Annette Sellars, whom he joined in holy matrimony in 1958; he is also the devoted father of three daughters and the proud grandfather of seven; and

WHEREAS, William F. Ruhl truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated leader who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. William F. Ruhl for his exceptional service as President of Goodpasture Christian School, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.